

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 5, 2007
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 7:20 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

In Attendance - Tim Aldrich, , Louie Bouma, Edward Hebbe III, Rich Lane, John Manley, Chris Marchion, Margaret Moddison, Pat O'Herren, Jim Olson, Bud Pile, Jack Reneau, Ray Rugg, Stephanie Strickland

Absent – Chad Bauer, Ed Greef, Jaala Wickman

Staff- Mack Long, Vivaca Crowser, Jeff Darrah, Ginny Schmutz, Dianne Schmutz, Mike Thompson

Guests-Bob Moddison

Opening Remarks:

Mack brought the membership up to speed on recent issues.

1. Season extension – 1,000+ calls were logged by the front office so far with questions primarily asking, “Where can I go?” and “Why can’t I use my general tag?” The problem with the news release was people only read or heard the first sentence and ignored the details. It also came to light that the general public does not understand the distinction between a license and a permit.

CAC members from Lincoln and Drummond kept heard that the youth hunt should have been continued for the extended season.

2. There is a statewide Parks conference going on today, so Lee is not with us. Also there is a statewide Fisheries meeting today as well, so Pat is not here either.
3. The news article regarding grizzly bear vs. bear spray was incorrect. Mack provided and explanation of what was incorrect. Mack and Vivaca will be meeting with the Missoulain for an article about FWP position on bear spray. General discussion ensued regarding the effect of the news article on the attitude of the general public concerning Department management of grizzly bears.
4. The question was asked if bear spray is effective on mountain lions and ungulates such as moose. The answer was it has been tested effective but has not been approved.
5. Discussion on Servheen’s slide show and presentation – consensus was that it is amazing about the number of grizzly that are out there and where they have been dispersing and that no one sees them.

6. It was reported that the Missoula County Commissioners were disappointed in FWP Commissioner Workman's comments, and they are considering a letter to the Governor regarding the grizzly bear vs. bear spray issue. CAC members are reporting similar concerns in their communities.
7. Highway 200 Bear - Report to the CAC that the Department has received many letters from the school children and communities of Ovando, Helmville, Seeley Lake and Lincoln all requesting custody of the dead bear. The best letter came from a young boy who believes, "The bear should be dead where he lived."

Status Report Request By CAC on Enforcement Cases

1. Mark Payton (Seeley Lake)
Two and a half years were invested in this case. Sentencing should be today. He has lost hunting privileges for life and cannot accompany anyone else in the field who is hunting. This includes loss of privileges in all states connected to the interstate wildlife violator compact. \$52,000 in fines and restitution. Over 100 heads were seized and we went to trial on 30. He plead guilty to 6 state felonies which are different from federal felonies in that he could possibly have his right to possess a firearm restored. He was working as an unlicensed outfitter.
2. Another case coming on board is that of an illegal outfitter in the Bitterroot.
3. Another case in the Region is being investigated.
4. We have a lot of magnificent specimens and will have to have a sale. General discussion of ensued regarding past and present rules and discussion of where the proceeds should go. Some members thought that a very good use of these funds would be to the hunter education program.

Meeting Dates Set for 2008

1. February 13
2. April 30
3. August 6
4. December 3

CAC Committee Reports

1. RRAFT (River Recreation Advisory For Tomorrow)
Jim Olson and Tim Aldrich both spoke about the progress being made by RRAFT. The Blackfoot is a model for development of management plans for the Bitterroot, Clark Fork and Rock Creek.
 - The River has been divided into segments identified as a "Reach."
 - Problems in each reach have been identified
 - Next will be deciding on how to address and manage identified problems.
 - All major drainages are rapidly receiving increasing use. We must develop strategies that will last at least 15 years. We cannot be doing this every five years. The plan and process take 12 to 18 months as it is.
2. Fort Peck funding
Louie Bouma and Jack Reneau took turns representing R2 CAC at the Fort Peck funding meetings.

- Mitigation placed restrictions on use of the hatchery and what fish can be raised there. 40 walleye ponds are empty seven months of the year.
- The hatchery costs \$406,000. The warm water stamp brings in \$250,000.
- Proposal 1 – Raise the warm water stamp from \$5 to \$8. Still left with restrictions and vacant 7 months of the year. Other sources of funding are not currently available.
- Proposal 2 – Drop the warm water stamp and increase a general fishing license for both residents and non-residents by \$1 or \$2 and operate the hatchery with general license dollars. This option could not be implemented until 2010 after it made it through the legislature. Raising the fee and lifting the restrictions could simplify regulations, do away with the warm water stamp, and make the hatchery operational year around. This would also reduce trucking costs.

Other Issues Raised By the CAC

1. Education Subcommittee: Pat O’Herren and Stephanie Strickland
 - How do we reach the new public? This question needs to be explored.
 - Workshops open to the public providing education and information.
2. Trapping Subcommittee: Tim Aldrich and Louie Bouma,
 - Anti-trapping activities are increasing. Legislation will be coming up.
 - The Department would prefer to keep trapping as a wolf management tool.
 - Develop a 90-day working group to address the issue
 - CAC Member, Ed Hebbe, MTA (Montana Trappers Assn) Rep.
 - Possibly contact John Clark as a Non-MTA, Non-CAC member
 - Invite Senator Lind and Footloose as working group members.
 - Ed provided a quick history of trapper education and requirements.
3. Membership Subcommittee: Rich Lane and Jim Olson
 - Participation – Members with low attendance will be contacted to ascertain continued interest.
 - Rotation protocol will be developed by the subcommittee. Statewide guidelines are available. Region 6 was noted as a good model with rotation of 1/3 of the membership each year. Members may reapply.

General Discussion Topics

1. Season Setting Meetings
 - Jan 7, Helmville, Community Center, 7PM
 - Jan 8, Missoula, Double Tree Inn, 6:30 PM
 - Jan 9, Seeley Lake, Community Center, 7PM
 - Jan 10, Lincoln, Lambkin's Cafe, 7PM
 - Jan 15, Deer Lodge, Community Center, 7PM
 - Jan 16, Anaconda, Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, 7PM
 - Jan 17, Hamilton, Daly-Leach Chapel, 7PM
 - Jan 22, Superior, USFS Ranger District, 6 PM
 - Jan 23, Philipsburg, Granite County Museum, 7PM
 - Jan 24, Drummond, Community Center, 7PM
2. Commission Meeting in February- Will look at wolves

3. Cabelas Discussion – What they are doing and the effects on public trust and the American model of wildlife management. Discussion was also held regarding the results of the meeting with Cabelas. Thanks was expressed by CAC members to the membership as a whole for letting Cabelas know of their displeasure as it had a stunning effect.
4. FWP Foundation – Margaret Moddison is both a CAC member and on the board of the FWP Foundation. She shared information that the Foundation would like to set up subcommittees in each FWP region that will focus on fundraising and the development of specific projects in those regions. Jim Olson thanked the Foundation for their part in the acquisition of 160 acres on the Skalkaho.
5. Thank You to Ray Rugg, CAC Member, Outfitter, and member of the Mule Deer Foundation for a donation of \$2,500 to the Enforcement division for flight time and patrol time. It helped resource protection quite a bit.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:15 pm

MINUTES APPROVED BY:

Mack Long, Region 2 Supervisor